

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated July 2, 2004 in which the Examiner objected to Figures 3 and 4, objected to claims 1, 8 and 14, rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejected claims 8, 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), rejected claims 1-3, 10 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and objected to claims 4-7, 11-13 and 16-18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Attached to this Amendment are replacement sheets for Figures 3 and 4, labeling them prior art. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner approves the correction and withdraws the objection to the drawings.

As indicated above, claims 1 and 14 have been amended to correct an informality. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner approves the correction and withdraws the objection to claims 1 and 14.

As indicated above, claims 1 and 7 have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 1 is now directed to the embodiment shown in Figure 1, while claim 7 is directed to the embodiment shown in Figure 2. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

As indicated above, objected to claim 5 has been incorporated into claim 1, objected to claim 7 has been rewritten into independent form, objected to claim 16 has been incorporated into claim 14 and objected to claim 18 has been rewritten into independent form. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-3, 10 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103, and

withdraws the rejection to claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Additionally, since objected to claims 4, 6 and 17 depend from allowable claims, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the objection thereto.

New claims 19-24 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The references taken singularly or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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By: 

Ellen Marcie Emas

Registration No. 32,131

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620